

163.
SOME USEFUL
OBSERVATIONS
AND
ADVICES

Taken from the Mouth of

JOHN ALDERSON,
deceased :

WITH

A short Account of him, during the
Time of his last Illness.

To which is added,

A TESTIMONY from the
Monthly-meeting of *Sedbergh* in *Westmorland*,
concerning him.

L O N D O N :

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QUESTIONS

AND

ADVICES

JOHN ALDERMAN



A LITTLE HISTORY

OF THE

BRITISH MUSEUM

FOR

THE

USE OF

A TESTIMONY from the
Monthly - meeting of *Sedbergh*, concerning
JOHN ALDERSON deceased.

OUR dear and well-beloved Friend *John Alderson* was born at *Ravenstonedale* in *Westmorland*, in the Year 1721, being Son of our aged and esteemed Friends *Ralph* and *Alice Alderson*, by whom he had a religious Education, both by Example and Precept, which, we doubt not, was signally serviceable to him in the time of his Youth, when he demeaned himself to them in a very dutiful manner, which we believe drew down the Blessing of Heaven upon him. About the nineteenth Year of his Age, he was remarkably favour'd with an humbling Visitation from on high, which as he yielded Obedience to, and kept under the forming Hand powerfully working in him, he became fitted for the Work of the Ministry, into which he was called about twelve Years afterward ; wherein, in a Short time, he grew skilful, and labour'd with unwearied Diligence, visiting divers Parts of this Nation several times. He also visited *Ireland*

and *Scotland*; in all which, we have great reason to believe his Labours were acceptable, and of good Service to the Churches; as he was about Home, when we were favoured with his Company, upon many publick Occasions, as well as in our more select Meetings; which he was diligent in the Attendance of. In time of Silence he was close and steady in a fervent Travail of Spirit before the Lord; was often enabled to unfold the deep Mysteries of the Kingdom, and the Work of Regeneration, and also strongly to press Friends to a steady Watchfulness against the many subtle Wiles and Temptations of the Enemy of Man's Happiness.

He had a great place with, and reach upon, both Friends and others, his Ministry being powerful and edifying, without Affectation. His Humility and circumspect self-denying Life were remarkable, greatly adorning the Gospel Minister. He was also clear and strong in the Discipline of the Church, and very helpful therein; for though his Love flowed freely to those in Community with us, and to Mankind in general, yet he was much concerned to have the Camp kept clean; and in order thereto, he
found

found himself concerned to rouse the Lukewarm and Negligent ; reprove and rebuke the Backsliders, and Disorderly amongst us, with a becoming Zeal, accompanied with fervent Charity, which made him beloved of all who rightly knew him. He was much inward, and seemed to be constantly waiting, to feel the Motions of the holy Spirit to lead him forth in his several Services ; and had closely to press upon others, the Necessity and Advantage of frequent inward Retirement of Mind ; knowing that to be the Way whereby he witnessed the Renewings of Wisdom, and Strength to persevere in the Way of his Duty.

About a Year ago he was seized with a Disorder in his Breast or Stomach, which, notwithstanding what Helps could be procured, remained upon him ; nevertheless, in this weak Situation as to his Health, he found a Concern upon his Mind to pay another Visit to Friends in some of the Southern Parts of this Nation, particularly the City of *London* ; which being laid before this Meeting, for our Approbation and Certificate, it made very deep Impressions on our Minds, to see him so given up and devoted

voted to the great Master's Service under such bodily Weakness. He proceeded upon the said Journey, in Company with our valuable Friend *Anthony Mason*, with whom he arrived at *London* in the twelfth Month last, in a declining State of Health ; nevertheless he attended some Meetings in that City ; and by Accounts from some Friends there, as well as his Companion, he appeared in publick Testimony, to the Comfort and Edification of many ; but his natural Strength continuing to decrease, he was confined to his Chamber near seventeen Weeks, and most part of that Time to his Bed, at our Friend *Thomas Jackson's*, where all necessary Care and Assistance were administered to him.

His Illness was often very painful, and bodily Affliction great, which he bore with exemplary Patience and Resignation ; he was frequently visited by many Friends, to whom his Mouth was often opened in Advice, Exhortation and Encouragement, suitable to their States ; which being attended with the living Evidence of TRUTH, it's hoped will remain, and be as *Bread cast upon the Waters, which may return after many Days*. He divers times expressed, that he
found

found Peace in giving up to answer the Requirings of his Lord and Master, to pay that last Visit to the Churches ; saying, If he had died at home, without endeavouring to discharge what he believed to be his Duty, he had died in Disobedience.

He often spoke of the near Sympathy he felt with his beloved and affectionate Wife, and intimated the tenderest Regard for his Children, with Desires that they might be brought up in the Way of TRUTH. His Resignation to the ordering Hand of Providence was very remarkable ; for though he signified how desirable it would be, to lay down his Head, and depart this Life, as in the Bosom of a beloved Wife, yet he was freely given up ; saying, *It was more to be desired to die in the Bosom of his dear Lord, for that he saw, in the Resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in Marriage.*

His Understanding and Memory were mercifully preserved clear and strong to the last ; and though sometimes he said, *He felt great Poverty of Spirit*, yet, at other times *he was graciously favour'd with the Aboundings of Love and Life ;* which were often comfortably felt by those who visited him. He was blessed with remarkable
Serenity

Serenity and Quietude of Mind, the preceding Part of the Day on which he died, declaring, *He was easy both in Body and Mind.*

He departed this Life the 26th of the fourth Month, near Midnight, and his Body was interred in *Bunhill-fields* the 30th of the same, after a large and solemn Meeting held at *Devonshire-house* for that Purpose; Aged near forty three, and a Minister about twelve Years.

Signed in and on Behalf of our said Meeting, held at Brigflats near Sedbergh, the 29th of the fifth Month 1764, by fifty three Friends, whose Names for Brevity-sake are omitted.

The said TESTIMONY, on Behalf of our Friend *John Alderson*, was read and approved at our Quarterly-meeting, held at *Brigflats* for *Westmorland* by Adjournment, the 29th of the fifth Month 1764, and signed by Order of the same, by



ISAAC WILSON,

Clerk to the said Meeting.

SOME USEFUL

Observations and Advices.

LONDON, the 13th of the first Month 1764.

OUR dear and well beloved Friend *John Alderson*, of *Ravenstonedale*, finding a Concern on his Mind to pay a religious Visit to Friends in the southern Parts of this Nation; he accordingly, with the Unity of his Brethren, set forward on his Journey (though weak in Body) from *Settle*, accompanied with our beloved Friend *Anthony Mason*, his near Relation. — They travelled together in great Love, mutual Affection, and true Unity of Spirit, being one in a weighty Concern for the Welfare of *Zion*. — His great Care in his Journey was, *to travail deeply in Spirit, to reach the Root of Life and Light*, lest he should be drawn to minister to the Cravings and Affections of the People, and not to their true State. — He was cautious in Appearance, composed and settled, with a steady Eye to Him

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who

who breaks the Bread, and gives His Servants to dispense suitably to the Condition of the People ; and was faithful in administering Judgment on the transgressing Nature. — He was likewise helped to preach the Gospel in Simplicity, and not to mix flighty Expressions and Elevations in his Ministry, and watchful to stand as short a Time as possible, and to stop as soon as he felt the Influence of the Spirit to abate. — A deep Sense was given him of the unsettled floating Disposition of the People, whose Expectations were more after Words, than the Word of eternal Life, and careful not to feed them with the Food they seem'd most to hunger after ; and at many Places he caution'd Ministers against gratifying the Peoples Lust after Words.

His Appearance in that solemn Duty of Prayer was short, pertinent, and accompany'd with Power and great Awfulness, especially his last Appearance of that kind at *Albans*, where he was much favour'd with divine Goodness, and seem'd as one about to leave the Earth, to partake more fully of the blessed State of the Saints in Light.

From

From hence he was favoured with a degree of Strength to reach the City, and to attend some Meetings of Friends. The few Testimonies he appeared in, though short, were very acceptable to the Living amongst us. But it pleased the alwise Disposer of His People and Children, to visit him with an Increase of that bodily Weakness which attended him in his Journey ; nevertheless the Lord, in divine Goodness, whose tender Mercies fail not them who love Him and keep His Commandments, eminently supported and comforted him, in the midst of his Afflictions, with the Consolation of His blessed Spirit, which was of more Value to his travailing Soul, than thousands of Gold or Silver, or the Consideration of any perishing Object.——A Sense of the continued Goodness of God, who had been with him all his Life long, had forgiven his Backslidings, restored and preserved him from falling a Prey to the Enemy of Souls, greatly humbled and bowed his Spirit, in Thankfulness and solemn Praise to the great Preserver of Men, much to the Edification, Consolation and Encouragement of some present ; which caused us to be humbly thankful

to our God, who directs His faithful Messengers in their Service, to speak suitably to the States of the People, publickly or privately, either by way of Reproof or Comfort.

Being favoured with a sound Mind, and deep Discerning both of that Spirit which serves God, and that which dishonours Him, he was divinely open'd to look back into his past Life in both these States, and to commemorate the Dealings of Providence with him from his Youth, when the Almighty called him from a State of Darkness to the Light of the Gospel of Christ, and at length to be a Publisher thereof for the good of Souls.—Under the Influence of that divine Love, which first loved him, he was inclin'd to leave a few Hints, respecting the Beginning and Progress of Truth in his Soul, to be communicated to his Brethren and Sisters; and if it may have a Tendency to stir up the pure Mind in any, to the Love of God, and to good Works, (the natural Product thereof) his Labours of Love will be answered.

First then, he was led to give a short Narration of the early Part of his Life, when he was young in Years; at which Season, he said, 'He
 ' was

' was mercifully visited with the Day - spring
 ' from on high, and in the Light of the Lord
 ' it was clearly discover'd to him, *what he should*
 ' *do, and what he should abstain from* ; but being
 ' addicted to youthful Follies and Vanities, he
 ' was unwilling to renounce them, as well as
 ' to come up in Obedience to the Advice and
 ' Admonitions of his faithful and experienc'd
 ' Parents in the Truth. — By his Disobedience,
 ' he *put out the Candle which the Lord had lighted*
 ' *in his Soul*, and continued for some Time to
 ' walk in Darkness ; in which dark and wilder-
 ' ness State, the Almighty, for wise Purposes by
 ' him unseen, suffer'd Satan to try and prove
 ' him with *various Temptations* ; not only with
 ' the Glory of temporal Delights, but with Sins
 ' exceeding sinful in their Nature. — He had
 ' received a Measure of Light and Grace, but
 ' he rebell'd against it ; and though he was kept
 ' from falling into gross Pollutions, yet his vain,
 ' light, and airy Will, and aspiring Imagination,
 ' was unwilling to submit to the Yoke of Christ,
 ' to follow Him in Humility and Self-denial ;
 ' and as he had, by Transgression against the
 ' inward Law, which is Light, forfeited his
 ' Right

' Right to the Tree of Life, he found no Way
 ' for a Return but by the flaming Sword, which
 ' in an eminent manner seemed furbished for
 ' him, in order to divide the Precious from the
 ' Vile, and which did execute the fierce Anger
 ' of the Lord upon his transgressing Nature,
 ' which was strong and unwilling to have Sin
 ' destroyed both Root and Branch. For some
 ' Time the Lord executed his just Judgments,
 ' so that his Terrors made him afraid, that his
 ' Mercy was clear gone from him for ever, which
 ' brought him to despair of attaining Life eternal.

' But when the Almighty (who redeems *Zion*
 ' through Judgment) was pleased to say, *it was*
 ' *enough* ; and this Dispensation of Condemna-
 ' tion had humbled his Spirit, and bowed his
 ' Neck to the Yoke of Christ, by the powerful
 ' Operation of His Spirit, he became as Clay in the
 ' Hands of the Potter ; and tho' the Ministration
 ' of Condemnation had been glorious, yet as he
 ' became obedient, the Ministration of Justifica-
 ' tion became more glorious, as he could now
 ' sing of *Judgment and Mercy*. — And as he
 ' kept faithful to the Discoveries of the Light,
 ' which now shone brighter to the perfect Day,
 ' he

‘ he was preserved therein from turning again
 ‘ to Folly ; knowing, by purchased Experience,
 ‘ that all who are saved from Sin, and persevere
 ‘ in a Life of Righteousness, must walk steadily
 ‘ in the Light of the Lord.’

When he was in the Employment of a Shepherd, being alone, he was by the Love of God so powerfully attracted to love Him again, and all Mankind, that under the sacred Influence and holy Anointing thereof, he found the Gospel of Salvation flow’d universally towards them, and the Word of Life sprang and flowed in his Soul, as if he had been preaching to many People. Thus was the Word nigh in his Heart, and the Time was approaching that it was to be in his Mouth, to call People to come and see how good God is.—But being apprehensive he was not yet sufficiently baptized for so sacred a Calling, he reasoned with Flesh and Blood, and declined to give up his Name to engage under the Captain of our Salvation, to encounter Sin in others ; upon which he mention’d his Distress and Fears to his experienced and aged Parent, who answer’d him, *That if he thus reason’d, he might never come up in that Duty.* Which, no doubt,

doubt, she had a full and confirmed Sense, *was required of him by the Almighty.*

And now our dear Friend having undergone many and deep Probations, the great Baptizer and Qualifier for the Work of the Ministry, was pleas'd to give him a Dispensation of the Gospel to preach, that he might shew unto Men the Way of Life and Salvation. — And he

intimated, ' That in the Course of his Ministry, ' he labour'd to the best of his Knowledge, to ' discharge his Duty faithfully; and when some- ' times he miss'd his Way, it was through ' Weakness, and not Wilfulness.' And let it be observ'd by young Ministers, that he said, ' He many times stood open to the Advice of ' his Brethren in the Truth; saying, with the ' royal Preacher, *Let the Righteous reprove me,* ' *and it shall be a Kindness.*'

Thus as he kept near to Truth, and was preserved in his Love to the Almighty, with a single Eye to His Honour and the Prosperity of Truth, he was called into more extensive Service, to visit the Churches in several Counties; in which Service he received the Reward of Peace.

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He also dropped a brotherly Caution to young Ministers in a *single State*, who may apprehend a Concern to move from their respective Meetings, to visit the Brethren, &c. ' That they ' carefully conduct themselves, in a manner becoming the Gospel they have to preach, that ' they may adorn it in all Things ; and watch ' daily and deeply at Wisdom's Gate, that they ' may avoid every Snare that may be laid for ' their Feet by the grand Adversary, who endeavours by all means to marr the Work of ' Truth, more especially in those who, by divine ' Aid, are engaged to pull down his strong ' Holds of Sin in others.'—He advised, ' That ' they should avoid so much as thinking, while ' in their Service, on a Change of Condition ; ' or letting their Minds or Eye out after any ' Object they might think a suitable Companion ' in a Marriage State ; and if any thing of that ' Import should be suggested by others, to keep ' clear and shut out every Proposition of this ' Sort, lest it should prove a Hurt to themselves ' and to their Service.'—Also, ' That such young ' Ministers as incline to marry, may be careful ' to marry in the Lord, and to make Choice

' of a Companion likely to be an Help-meet in
 ' the Advancement of His Honour, and the
 ' Prosperity of Truth ; — and not to let any
 ' temporal View, either of Riches, or of out-
 ' ward Accomplishments, be the Motive of join-
 ' ing to one void of Virtue and true Religion ;
 ' for these unwarrantable Pursuits have done
 ' much Hurt in our Society, and have laid a
 ' Foundation for great Sorrow, both to them-
 ' selves and their Posterity ; it being hard, for
 ' Persons of great Wealth and Reputation in the
 ' World, to submit to the low and humble Ap-
 ' pearance, Precepts and Doctrines of Christ in
 ' the Heart.'

He likewise observed, how he was con-
 ducted in this important Affair of Marriage.
 ' As I was favour'd, *said he*, to keep a single
 ' Eye to the Honour of Truth, Providence was
 ' pleas'd to point out a suitable Bosom-friend, a
 ' virtuous religious young Woman ; industrious,
 ' though not possessed of much earthly Riches,
 ' but who had a Share of those Riches *which*
 ' *wax not old* ; and was intrusted, by our great
 ' Lord and Master, with a Talent of Grace,
 ' which has been improv'd to His Honour. In
 every

‘ every Circumstance which called me to my
 ‘ Duty as a Minister, she has not been a Hin-
 ‘ derance, but a Promoter of the Work, which
 ‘ has reflected Honour to the Cause I am engaged
 ‘ in, and hath been a Blessing to me ; and my
 ‘ earnest Desire is, that she may be favoured
 ‘ as an Elder in the Truth ; so will she be a
 ‘ Blessing to the Church, as well as a good Ex-
 ‘ ample to our tender Babes. Her pious In-
 ‘ struction and Endeavours will be, I trust, to
 ‘ nurture them in the plain Way of Truth, and
 ‘ not only not to indulge, but restrain them,
 ‘ where any Inclination appears, which may
 ‘ bring Dishonour to the high and holy Pro-
 ‘ fession we make. And if my Children should
 ‘ be continued in this dangerous World, in
 ‘ the Tenderneſs of an endeared Parent, if I
 ‘ ſhould be removed from Time to Eternity in
 ‘ this preſent Weakneſs, I would, recommend-
 ‘ ing them to the *Bleſſing of the everlaſting Hills*,
 ‘ leave them this ſolemn Injunction ; *To be in*
 ‘ *Subjection to their tender Mother*, as one expe-
 ‘ rienced in the Truth ; and alſo *to be careful*
 ‘ *not to reject the tender Emotions and early Viſi-*
 ‘ *tations of kind Providence*, who ſometimes is

' pleased to manifest Himself in meer Child-
 ' hood ; and as they take heed to this Reprover
 ' and Director, the Spirit of Truth in them-
 ' selves, and to the Counsel and Admonitions
 ' of an affectionate Parent, I have no doubt but
 ' my Wife, as well as tender Offspring, will be
 ' blessed with the *Dew of Heaven*, and a Suffi-
 ' ciency of temporal Accommodations suitable to
 ' a Pilgrim State, in which we are while here.
 ' And though I leave them but a small worldly
 ' Inheritance, I leave them my Example of *In-*
 ' *dus*try, which, through Mercy, has preserv'd
 ' me above Want. — I also recommend to them,
 ' To endeavour to be contented in a low and
 ' mean Way, remembering our great Pattern,
 ' who though He was Lord of Heaven and the
 ' whole Earth, denied Himself of earthly Ac-
 ' commodations to that degree, that *he had not*
 ' *whercon to lay His Head.*'

Our dear Friend having deliver'd what
 seem'd to affect his Mind respecting himself and
 his near natural Connections, did not forget
Sion, for whose Sake he had not been silent,
 but both at home and abroad, in the Ability
 communicated by the divine Hand, laboured
 earnestly

earnestly for her Restoration and Return from her present Captivity, that it might be said to her once more, *Thy God reigneth*. And a Concern continuing on his Mind, that she might arise and shake herself from the Dust of the Earth, which eclipses her Glory and dims her Beauty, he observed, ‘ That one eminent Cause
 ‘ of her sorrowful Declension, and why she is
 ‘ thus in a strange Land, is the same that occasioned *Israel* of old to go into Captivity. *Israel*
 ‘ had forsaken the Lord, the Fountain of Wisdom; and the People now have lean’d too
 ‘ much to their own Understanding, which has
 ‘ been clouded with earthly Views. That Eye
 ‘ is darken’d which should have look’d singly to
 ‘ the Honour of God; for which Purpose He
 ‘ gave us a Being here. Men have had a View
 ‘ more to their own Honour, the Grandeur,
 ‘ the Glory, Friendships, Reputation, Profits and
 ‘ Pleasures of this Life, which our Lord pronounced a Cause of Unfruitfulness then, and
 ‘ which remains to this Day, a great Obstruction
 ‘ to the springing up and Growth of the Seed of
 ‘ the Kingdom, in the Hearts of the Children of
 ‘ Men in general, and in us as a People in
 ‘ particular.

‘ particular. In this dark State, many presume
 ‘ to judge of spiritual Concerns and Matters ;
 ‘ determining in favour of their carnal Minds
 ‘ and vain Inclinations ; forsaking that Simpli-
 ‘ city, and godly Sincerity, wherein the first
 ‘ *Christians*, and our faithful Predecessors in the
 ‘ Truth, had their Conversation in the World ;
 ‘ not in the fleshly Wisdom thereof. In this
 ‘ Wisdom from below, People are joining Hea-
 ‘ ven and Earth, and claiming an Inheritance in
 ‘ two Kingdoms, notwithstanding our Saviour
 ‘ assures us, *we cannot serve two Masters*. But
 ‘ though we sorrowfully see many in this dan-
 ‘ gerous State, yet the Lord has not left Himself
 ‘ without sensible Witnesses of His Power and
 ‘ Goodness, Testimony - bearers for His great
 ‘ Name and Truth’s Sake, both Ministers, El-
 ‘ ders, and some among the People, who are
 ‘ secretly weeping as between the Porch and the
 ‘ Altar, saying, as formerly, *Spare Thy People,*
 ‘ *Lord, and give them not up to the Reproach of*
 ‘ *the Heathen.*’

And that all Ministers and Elders should be
 unanimous in this great Concern, he advised,
 ‘ That they be very weighty in their Spirits,
 ‘ and

‘ and travail deep to come to the Foundation of
 ‘ Light and Life, that they may clearly discern
 ‘ the Mystery and Subtilty of that Wisdom in
 ‘ which carnal Men, with a seeming Sanctity,
 ‘ are endeavouring to undermine the very Foun-
 ‘ dation of Truth. — That Ministers be very
 ‘ cautious and careful, that they are not led out
 ‘ of the Line of Truth, and bias’d by the Af-
 ‘ fections and Pretences of the People, in con-
 ‘ senting to spare any thing that appertains to
 ‘ *Amalek*, because the People will have it so ;
 ‘ but remember, the Determination of the Lord
 ‘ is, *that Amalek shall be utterly destroyed* ; and
 ‘ also, that we forget not a Remark a Minister
 ‘ of the Gospel made formerly, *That when the*
 ‘ *Declension appeared most visible in the Church,*
 ‘ *’twas observed, Ministers and Elders were too*
 ‘ *remiss, and gave way too much to the People.*’

Our Friend dropp’d another Caution to Mini-
 sters, who must be sensible of the Disposition
 too general among Professors : ‘ That they
 ‘ keep strictly to the Motion and Leading of
 ‘ Truth, and not gratify that unstable Mind
 ‘ which feeds on Words, and thereby places a
 ‘ Dependence on the Arm of Flesh. — As this
 Spirit

‘ Spirit is to be starved and not fed, the Food
 ‘ thus administred will not turn to proper Nou-
 ‘ rishment, but rather destroy any Remains of
 ‘ Life, or at least hinder its Growth.’ — He
 further advis’d, ‘ That when a Minister was fa-
 ‘ vour’d in a Meeting, he might carefully avoid
 ‘ any Elevation on that Account, and keeping
 ‘ deeply bow’d and humbled, knowing that the
 ‘ Instrument is nothing, but He that makes use
 ‘ of it, is All in All. — And when any are
 ‘ thus favour’d in meeting with the Renewing of
 ‘ Life, and have partook of the Cup of Blessing
 ‘ from the Hand of Him who sustains that Life
 ‘ He begets in His Children, that every one be
 ‘ careful they lose not the Savour of this pre-
 ‘ cious Ointment, by running into many Words,
 ‘ and unprofitable Discourse in Families ; but
 ‘ that their Words be few and savoury. This
 ‘ would be a good Example, and prevent that
 ‘ Lightness of Conversation, too visible amongst
 ‘ us as a People, unbecoming our professed Gra-
 ‘ vity and *Christian* Deportment.’

He was very earnest in recommending to
 Ministers, when they apprehend they are moved
 to that solemn Duty of publick Prayer, ‘ That
 ‘ they

‘ they be very humble in their Spirits, and wait
 ‘ for a Certainty, that they are called to be
 ‘ Mouth for the People : And, in these solemn
 ‘ Approaches to the infinite Being, that finite
 ‘ Creatures presume not to dictate, and inadver-
 ‘ tently go about to inform Him who knows
 ‘ all Things ; for we should be short, pertinent,
 ‘ reverent and awful ; remembering He, that
 ‘ teaches true Prayer, and leads to pray, has
 ‘ said, *When ye pray, use not vain Repetitions,*
 ‘ *as the Heathen do ; for they think that they shall*
 ‘ *be heard for their much speaking,* Mat. vi. 7.’

— He also advised Ministers, ‘ Not to be
 ‘ careful in Testimony for learned Words or
 ‘ high Expressions ; because the Wisdom of the
 ‘ Creature, no more than the Will of the Crea-
 ‘ ture, can work the Righteousness of God.’

He also cautioned, ‘ That Ministers may not
 ‘ have a View to obtain Riches, either in Mar-
 ‘ riage or otherwise ; thinking thereby, that for
 ‘ the future they may be more at Liberty to go
 ‘ on the Lord’s Errands ; for many have found
 ‘ their Mistake herein, and that they have been
 ‘ further intangled, and more incumbered. —

‘ But if Covetousness be the Motive to pursue

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‘ great

‘ great Wealth, this Disposition is the more
 ‘ unwarrantable, and will end in much Sorrow
 ‘ and Confusion.’

He also advis’d such as might be requir’d to
 travel in the Service of Truth, ‘ That they look
 ‘ not at outward Circumstances, but follow the
 ‘ Call of the Lord, as he had done in this pre-
 ‘ sent Journey ; when he left a tender Wife
 ‘ but just recover’d from bodily Infirmary, and
 ‘ notwithstanding his own weak State, he wit-
 ‘ nessed great Peace of Mind, and a Confirma-
 ‘ tion of being in his Duty.’

When any Ministers are required to leave
 their nearest temporal Comforts, he exhorted,
 ‘ That they give up all cheerfully, and go forth
 ‘ in Faith, and a Reliance on that Hand which
 ‘ is able and willing to support His faithful
 ‘ Servants, who have His Honour and Glory
 ‘ more in View than any temporal Accommo-
 ‘ dations.’

He further advis’d, ‘ That in Meetings for
 ‘ Discipline, Ministers should labour for a right
 ‘ Spirit, and in that be impartial without respect
 ‘ of Persons, and particularize Things where
 ‘ necessary ; for if we speak only in Generals,

‘ the

‘ the People wave and evade those which may
 ‘ be spoken to in a sober, solid Spirit, tho’ not
 ‘ by way of Preaching. — That Ministers be
 ‘ careful to be temperate in all things, and at all
 ‘ times, and especially in the use of Wine and
 ‘ strong Liquors, particularly when they attend
 ‘ Meetings; — rememb’ring, under the Law,
 ‘ *the Priests were not to drink Wine nor strong*
 ‘ *Drink, when they were going to the Tabernacle*
 ‘ *of the Congregation.*

He likewise delivered a Word of Advice to
 Elders, ‘ That they look well to their Calling,
 ‘ whether it be of God or Man only ; and be
 ‘ careful to witness a proper Qualification for
 ‘ that important Office. That they would con-
 ‘ sider, it is necessary they be baptized with the
 ‘ same Baptism with the Ministers, and know a
 ‘ drinking of the same Cup of suffering for, and
 ‘ cleansing from Sin, and know a being dipp’d
 ‘ into the States of the Church, and a suffering
 ‘ with and for the Seed in Bondage. They, as
 ‘ well as the Ministers, must be cloathed with
 ‘ Humility. They must be Ensamples to the
 ‘ Flock. They should sympathize with them,

‘ as well as admonish and rebuke with all Authority, Meekness and Long-suffering.

‘ Thus should Ministers and Elders be very
 ‘ careful, that their Faith may produce consistent Fruits, and that the same may appear
 ‘ in the christian Education of their Children, and in their Conduct towards them. That
 ‘ they rule well their own Houses ; or how
 ‘ shall they be fit to take the Care of the Church ?
 ‘ — And though it must be a superior Power
 ‘ that must effect a Change in the vain Inclinations of Youth, who are much addicted to
 ‘ Pride and Vanity ; yet it is the indispensable
 ‘ Duty of Parents, not to comply with or gratify such Desires, as evidently dishonour the
 ‘ Truth we profess ; but on the contrary, to
 ‘ restrain them while under their Care, and
 ‘ maintain’d at their Expence.—It would also
 ‘ be of great Advantage, if the Wives of Ministers and Elders consider’d, and carefully observ’d, the Stations of their Husbands in the
 ‘ Church, that they bring no Reproach on the
 ‘ Truth ; and remember the Apostle’s Description, particularly of such Women, *That they*
 ‘ *be grave, sober, and faithful in all Things,*
 ‘ *Teachers*

‘ Teachers of good Things, and jointly, with their
 ‘ Husbands, rule their own Houses well.—That
 ‘ Ministers and Elders be careful to remove
 ‘ every Obstruction, which may hinder an har-
 ‘ monious Labour in them all, for the Promotion
 ‘ of Truth ; and be willing that the Image of
 ‘ Gold, Silver, Iron, Clay, &c. which hinders
 ‘ true Gospel Unity from being fully maintain’d
 ‘ among us, be destroy’d by the Stone cut out
 ‘ of the Mountain without Hands, by that in-
 ‘ visible Power which alone can subdue, and
 ‘ bring every thing into Order ; the Order and
 ‘ Direction of His Spirit, in whom the whole
 ‘ Building is fitly fram’d together, and groweth
 ‘ into an holy Temple in the Lord.’

Having freely delivered the above Hints,
 which rested at times on his Mind, he address’d
 himself as to his Brethren in the Truth in great
 Love, ‘ Committing and commending every one
 ‘ to God, and to the Word of His Grace and
 ‘ good Spirit, which is able to qualify and fur-
 ‘ nish for every good Word and Service in the
 ‘ Church ; for whose Sake, *continued he*, I have
 ‘ travelled in the Deeps ; and now, in the seem-
 ‘ ing Conclusion of my Time, I witness renewed
 ‘ Peace,

' Peace, and divine Refreshment, and with my
 ' languishing Breath, under the Influence of
 ' Gospel Love, I am enabled to pray for the
 ' Peace of our *Zion*, that Truth and Righteous-
 ' ness may prosper within her Gates, and the
 ' Salvation of our God may be yet appointed as
 ' Walls and Bulwarks about her Cities.—This
 ' is what I continue earnestly to wish, not only
 ' for my Brethren and fellow Members, but for
 ' every one who may receive the Invitation of
 ' God's Love, and be obedient to the Dictates
 ' of His Spirit, and so become Inhabitants of
 ' this holy City, the City of the great King,
 ' who is ever worthy to rule and reign in the
 ' Hearts of the People.

' Thus having reliev'd my Spirit, there re-
 ' mains nothing, but to desire my endeared
 ' Love may be remember'd to my affectionate
 ' Wife, (who I desire may not grieve beyond
 ' Measure, but freely resign me into the Hands
 ' of my faithful Creator) also to my dear Chil-
 ' dren, with my dear aged Parents and Relations
 ' according to the Flesh; telling them, That
 ' through the continued Loving-kindness of a
 ' merciful Saviour, it is well with me, and I am
 ' favour'd

'favour'd with a comfortable Evidence, that if I
 'am remov'd with the present Weakness of
 'Body, He will receive me into the Arms of
 'His Mercy ; and that I go to their God, and
 'my God, to their Father and my Father, to
 'join the heavenly Host, in ever magnifying
 'His Love and Mercy, who hath loved and
 'washed us in the Blood of the immaculate
 'Lamb : To whom, with the Father, through
 'the holy Spirit, be Glory, Honour and Praise,
 'now and eternally in the Heavens. *Amen.*'

F I N I S.

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Given I was a member of the
and removed with the
Body. He will be
His Majesty; and that
my God, to which I
from the heavenly
His Love and
wished us in the
land; it is
the
now and



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